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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 10 April 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

At a time when serious efforts are being exerted by concerned parties, including the League of Arab States and the new Palestinian national unity government, and hopes are rising to revive the peace process towards the just and peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to carry out violent and unlawful policies that are totally contradictory to the concept of peace and serve only to further inflame and exacerbate the difficult situation on the ground. Countless violations and grave breaches of international law are being committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, every single day.

During the month of March, the Israeli occupying forces carried out numerous violent military invasions and incursions in Palestinian cities, towns and refugee camps, killing and injuring more Palestinian civilians, including children, destroying more civilian property and infrastructure, and further terrorizing and traumatizing the besieged civilian population. Repeated incursions have been carried out in particular in the Nablus and Jenin areas, as well as in the Gaza Strip. This past weekend the occupying Power resumed its policy of extrajudicial killings, using its lethal helicopter gunships to fire missiles near the Jabaliya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, killing a Palestinian man and wounding several others. This comes on the heels of threats by Israeli officials to carry out yet another full-scale military invasion of the Gaza Strip.

In addition, the Israeli occupying forces have continued carrying out daily raids and arrests throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in the cities of Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarem, Qalqilya, Al-Khalil, Bethlehem and Jericho and surrounding areas. The occupying forces have also continued the illegal practice of using Palestinian civilians as human shields during door-to-door searches

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in some of these raids. Among the hundreds of Palestinians arrested and detained in the recent period were 18 Palestinian men seized by the occupying forces following a raid of the Palestinian military intelligence headquarters in Ramallah on 7 March 2007 and 13 young boys from Al-Arroub refugee camp north of Al-Khalil who were arrested by the occupying forces on their way to school on that same day. Regrettably, the number of Palestinian civilians being imprisoned and detained by Israel, the occupying Power, continues to swell as a result of such arrests, with a total of more than 10,000 Palestinian prisoners, including women and children, currently being held in Israeli jails and detention centres, most in abhorrent and inhuman conditions.

At the same time, the Palestinian people continue to be subjected to violence, harassment and vandalism at the hands of armed, fanatical Israeli settlers illegally transferred by Israel, the occupying Power, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In recent weeks, Israeli settlers have set fire to cars, occupied a building in the centre of Al-Khalil, rampaged through the town of Khirbat Safa and fired at homes, and, on 8 April, a group of Israeli settlers beat and wounded three Palestinian schoolgirls in the village of Um Tuba and tore apart their school books. In grave breach of international humanitarian law, Israel, the occupying Power, continues its illegal settlement campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, confiscating more land for the expansion and construction of settlements, building more Jewish-only bypass roads to serve these settlements and allowing the illegal settlers to act with impunity towards the Palestinian civilian population.

In this connection, Israel, the occupying Power, also continues its unlawful construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in particular in and around East Jerusalem, in total disrespect for the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and the resolutions of the United Nations and in grave breach of international law. Land confiscations and destruction of properties for this purpose continue unabated. Demonstrations against such illegal activities continue, and the Israeli occupying forces have wounded dozens of Palestinian civilians, including in the villages of Bil'in and Al-Ma'sara, in recent protests against this unlawful apartheid wall, which is destroying their livelihoods, their land and their communities and which, in conjunction with the settlements, is destroying the territorial integrity of the Palestinian Territory and the prospects for achieving the two-State solution.

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to impose more than 500 checkpoints and roadblocks throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, intentionally and severely restricting the movement of persons and goods. This illegal practice continues to have a disastrous impact on the Palestinian economy and on the socio-economic life of the Palestinian people. Such restrictions even continue to be imposed on humanitarian and medical personnel and vehicles, with several recent reports of Israeli occupying forces preventing the movement of ambulances and harassing and attacking ambulances at checkpoints. Israel also continues to impose frequent, prolonged closures on the Occupied Palestinian Territory and has in particular subjected the Rafah crossing in the Gaza Strip — the only point of entry and exit for Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip — to repeated and arbitrary closures, exacerbating the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and fuelling tensions.

As a combined result of the ongoing illegal settlement activities, construction of the wall and imposition of checkpoints and roadblocks, Occupied East Jerusalem has remained under siege during the current period, isolated from the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and deteriorating socially, economically and culturally. The occupying Power has continued to severely restrict the access of Palestinian civilians to the Holy City and to obstruct their access to holy sites, particularly Al-Haram Al-Sharif compound. Moreover, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to carry out illegal excavations in Occupied East Jerusalem in the Old City despite the calls for cessation of such activities, and extremist Jews have been allowed to enter Al-Haram Al-Sharif compound in recent days under the protection of Israeli occupying forces, actions that have in the past inflamed Palestinian and Muslim sensitivities and threaten today to seriously destabilize the fragile situation.

Overall, a review of the current period paints a bleak picture of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. This is the sad reality of the Palestinian people under occupation as they continue to suffer the violation of their human rights and grave humanitarian hardships under Israel's oppressive and illegal policies, which affect every aspect of their lives and are at the root of all problems and strife. At the same time, the Palestinian people also continue to suffer as a result of the international aid blockade that has been imposed for more than a year now and has yet to be lifted despite the formation of a national unity government under the leadership of President Abbas. While attention is focused on the efforts to revive the peace process and on the actions of the new unity government of the Palestinian Authority, this dire situation on the ground cannot be ignored, for it is far from normal, near disastrous, and will surely undermine any progress that may be achieved. Attention must also be urgently focused on the actions of Israel, the occupying Power, and the international community must take measures to compel Israel to cease acting with impunity and to uphold international law — it must be compelled to cease its violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people, to cease its illegal policies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and instead to genuinely pursue the path of peace. There is a real opportunity at present for progress towards the resumption of the peace process towards the achievement of the two-State solution and a peaceful settlement, and the international community should uphold its responsibilities in this regard to ensure that this opportunity is not lost like so many before it.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 279 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 1 March 2007 (A/ES-10/382-S/2007/119), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that, since 2 March 2007, at least 17 more Palestinian civilians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 4,478. The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

Annex to the identical letters dated 10 April 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Friday, 9 March 2007, to Monday, 9 April 2007)

Friday, 9 March 2007

1. Mohammad Ahmad Al-Ghalban (age 18)

Saturday, 10 March 2007

2. Khaled Da'wood Al-Faqeeh (age 6 months)
3. Youssef Wa'el Karawi

Wednesday, 21 March 2007

4. Mohammad Ibrahim Ismail Jabr (age 18)
5. Fadi Akram Abu Kishik

Tuesday, 27 March 2007

6. Muhannad Mreish
7. Alaa' Al-Ghaleez

Wednesday, 28 March 2007

8. Iyad Mazen Abu Hatab

Thursday, 29 March 2007

9. Saber Abu Warda
10. Ahmad Ibrahim Asa'sah (age 16)
11. Mohammad Oweideh

Wednesday, 4 April 2007

12. Ramzi Awadallah Al-Zaa'neen

Thursday, 5 April 2007

13. Aziz Hamed Al-Matour
14. Tahreer Abu Al-Jidian (age 17)

Friday, 6 April 2007

15. Khaled Al-Shawwaf

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 4,478.

Saturday, 7 April 2007

16. Iyad Rasmi Abu Taha
17. Fouad Nabeel Ma'rouf

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 23 April 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to inform you of the alarming upsurge of aggression and crimes against Palestinian civilians by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Within 24 hours, these acts of aggression resulted in the deaths of nine Palestinians, an alarming indication of the Israeli occupying forces' disregard for the value of Palestinian lives and for international law and international humanitarian law.

On Saturday, 21 April 2007, six Palestinians were killed by the Israeli occupying forces. In the Jenin refugee camp, three young men, Mohammad Ghaleb Al-Dumaj, Mohammad Afif Sarhan and Ahmad Mohammad Eissah, were killed in a raid on the camp by the Israeli occupying forces' undercover unit death squads. Seventeen-year-old Bushra Naji Bargheesh was also killed that day by the Israeli occupying forces by a gunshot to the head, inside her home.

Also on Saturday, the Israeli occupying forces raided Kufr Dan village near Jenin. Mohamad Sa'eed Talal Abed, a Palestinian policeman, was fatally shot in the face while on the rooftop of his home. In another grave violation of the agreed-upon ceasefire between President Mahmoud Abbas and the Israeli Prime Minister, and in an alarming maintenance of the policy of extrajudicial killings, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a civilian car in the northern Gaza Strip near Jabaliya Refugee Camp, killing 42-year-old Kamal Anan, a municipality employee, and injuring two others.

Early on Sunday, 22 April 2007, Ameen Lubada and Fadel Noor were also killed by invading Israeli occupying forces in Nablus. Shortly afterwards, Kareem Zahran, a 14-year-old schoolboy, was shot in the stomach in the Ramallah village of Deir Abu Mashaal. The Israeli occupying forces refused to allow Kareem access to immediate medical treatment, causing him to bleed to death.

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Israel's flagrant violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law did not stop at the cold-blooded killing of nine Palestinians. International media outlets have aired the images of Israeli occupation soldiers forcing two Palestinian teenagers to stand in front of their jeep in Nablus, using them as human shields. The wide-scale detention round-ups of the Israeli occupying forces have also continued unabated in the West Bank, particularly in the north. Over 126 Palestinians have been arrested in the past week, adding to the already 11,000 Palestinians illegally held behind Israeli bars, including over 300 children and 41 elected parliamentarians.

These unrelenting crimes and the repeated invasions of Palestinian cities, towns and refugee camps by the Israeli occupying forces, including the current massing of troops around Gaza, an imminent threat of wide-scale military aggression, prove once again that the Israeli Government is intent on further escalating the situation on the ground. By its military operations against the Palestinians, Israel, the occupying Power, is not only violating basic human rights, including the right to life, it is also severely undermining any opportunity for peace efforts to see the light, including the latest Arab and international efforts to put the Arab Peace Initiative into motion.

The international community, particularly the Security Council, is under obligation to ensure that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately curbs its death squads and halts this inexcusable killing of innocent civilians and children. It is incumbent upon the international community to exert pressure upon Israel to commit to peace in tangible actions and to comply with its international commitments to end its occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories, including East Jerusalem. The Security Council, as the body responsible for maintaining international peace and security, has an obligation to provide protection to the Palestinian civilian population and to take immediate action to bring an end to Israeli violations. It must be made clear that ending the 40-year-old Israeli occupation and the establishment of a viable and independent Palestinian State is the only way to ending the conflict, rather than increasing brutal military aggression and utter disregard for international covenants and commitments.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 280 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 10 April 2007 (A/ES-10/383-S/2007/192), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that, since 10 April 2007, at least 10 more Palestinian civilians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 4,488. The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

Annex

Annex to the identical letters dated 23 April 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Tuesday, 17 April 2007, to Monday, 23 April 2007)

Tuesday, 17 April 2007

1. Ashraf Mohammad Hanashieh

Saturday, 21 April 2007

2. Bushra Naji Barghcesh (age 17)
3. Kamal Kazem Anan
4. Ahmad Mohammad Eissa
5. Mohammad Ghaleb Al-Dumaj
6. Mohammad Afif Sarhan Jaleel
7. Mohammad Sa'eed Talal Abed

Sunday, 22 April 2007

8. Ameen Lubada
9. Fadel Noor
10. Kareem Zahran (age 14)

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 4,488.